

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING TASK FORCE**
Wednesday, June 9, 2004 – 9:00 a.m. – Lehi City Council Chambers

Members Present:

Senator Carlene M. Walker
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Sen. David L. Gladwell
Sen. Paula Julander
Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Brad Dee
Rep. Craig W. Butters
Rep. John Dougall

Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Todd E. Kiser

Members Absent:

Sen. Karen Hale
Rep. Neil A. Hansen

Staff Present:

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Shannon C. Halverson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at www.le.utah.gov or by contacting the task force secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. She thanked Lehi City for hosting the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Julander moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously .

2. Population Growth, Land-use Development, and Impacts on Transportation

Mr. Carlos Bracerias, Deputy Director, UDOT (Utah Department of Transportation), stated the growth challenges facing northern Utah County and southern Salt Lake County are not unique. Rates of growth differ throughout the state.

Mr. Darrell Cook, Mountainland Association of Governments, distributed and reviewed "Wasatch Front Population History 1970-2000" and "Wasatch Front Population Projections 2000-2030." Population projections along the Salt Lake/Utah County line indicate a dramatic increase. He stressed the need to consider both long and short-term transportation needs.

Mr. Bracerias distributed a graphic depicting the growth of vehicle traffic. He pointed out that by 2030, SR-73 will carry over 85,000 vehicle trips per day, SR-68 will carry over 50,000 vehicle trips per day, and Mountain View Corridor will carry approximately 90,000 vehicle trips per day. UDOT is working to address these challenges.

Mayor Kenneth Greenwood, Lehi City, discussed the traffic congestion problems facing Lehi and the surrounding communities. He stressed the need for funding to take care of the problems they are encountering. He asked that local governments be given the authority to help solve these problems.

Mr. David Blackburn, Eagle Mountain City Councilman, expressed his appreciation for the expansion

efforts being made on SR-73. He noted that some of the city's problems are attributed to the fact that the city was not built along an existing corridor for utilities. Mr. Blackburn indicated that the city needs to grow to survive. He asked that the Task Force develop plans to facilitate interagency communication when there is an access problem on a major thoroughfare.

Mayor Timothy Parker, Saratoga Springs City, distributed development information regarding the area. Saratoga Springs presents a significant transportation challenge because there is no freeway accessible to them. They currently have 6,500 residents. He noted that state roads within the municipality are also a concern. These roads should continue to be developed and maintained to serve the area.

Mr. Steve Noble, South Jordan City, indicated that they are also rapidly growing. He pointed out the Daybreak Development in their city will have significant impacts on transportation. He said they strongly support the proposed Mountain View Corridor. Mr. Noble stated that funding resources available to the city are at least three years behind their needs.

Mr. Lowell Elmer, Dixie MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization), distributed "Growth issues in Utah's Dixie," "Regional Transportation Plan," and "St. George City Two-Way Traffic Volumes - 2015." Issues of concern to the MPO include traffic congestion, open space, funding needs, air quality, and utilities.

Ms. Suzanne Allen, Chair, Dixie MPO and St. George City Council member, mentioned that St. George has 75 percent of the job market in the area. Some of the area's biggest constraints involve the topography and the desert tortoise habitat. She noted that the MPO in the area works very well. Ms. Allen said she would like to have some shifting of funding to help take care of their roads and would also like to see the environmental process made simpler.

Mr. Tom Warne, Tom Warne and Associates, distributed a summary of his testimony. He commented that states are realizing that federal aid isn't going to solve their revenue problems. The trend is towards more bonded indebtedness which is a temporary avoidance of raising taxes. He indicated that what is needed is net new money. He gave specific examples of what other areas in the country are doing.

Mr. Christensen briefly discussed impact fees. He commented that the Legislature could amend the statute to allow local governments to consider the impact of development on state and federal highways.

Mr. Steve White, Utah County, pointed out that population growth concerning Utah County has been continually underestimated. The growth rate in Utah County is double the growth rate of Salt Lake County. He stressed the need for new solutions to address the problem.

Mr. Hugh Johnson, UTA (Utah Transit Authority), said they transport 2,600 people a day between Salt Lake and Utah County. He stated that the renovation and expansion of existing roads is not the only solution and that UTA can be a player in helping to provide another facet of the solution. He encouraged the Task Force to consider ways to allow local governments to provide funding.

Mr. Hal Clyde, Transportation Commission, pointed out that UDOT has no authority to preserve a corridor other than to purchase it. It is important to recognize that it costs from 30-50 percent of the

funding available to respond to transportation needs to obtain the right-of-way. He emphasized the importance of a private/public partnership.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns), indicated that the current sales tax structure incentivises high impact development. The ULCT has been working on a task force to address the problem of how to change the tax structure to induce low impact development and help coordinate transportation and other issues.

3. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.